Proposal for Four-Laning of NH-31A

1507. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any. request from the State Government of Sikkim to convert NH-31A into four-lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government to this proposal; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Four laning of NH-31 A from Sevoke to Gangtok was approved by the Government on 22.9.2005 for implementation under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North Eastern Region, which was formulated by tha Ministry in consultation of the State Governments. The proposal was subsequently approved by the Government on 18.5.2006 for 2-lane with paved shoulders in view of exorbitant cost of 4-laning. Detailed Project Report for 2-lane with paved shoulders has been prepared by National Highways Authority of India.

Gwalior dry bypass

t 1508. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Gwalior city bypass is proposedto be constructed at National Highway No. 3;

(b) if so, the present status of this proposal;

(c) the amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) by when this construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Construction of 4-lane Gwalior bypass has been taken up on BOT(Annuity) basis. The bypass connects NH 3 at chainage km. 103.00 and NH-75 at chainage km. 16.00 and the total length of the bypass is 42.03 km. The work has commenced in April 2007.

(c) and (d) The total cost of this project is Rs. 300.93 crore. An amount of Rs. 22.77 crore has been spent on this project upto January 2008. The project is scheduled to be completed in October 2009.

Private consultants on road safety

1509. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI has hired private consultants to advise on road safety;

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof and the need of such consultants;

(c) the payments provided to such consultants;

(d) whether it is a fact that suggestions and ideas and experience related proposals from non-funded organizations and individuals are immediately rejected; and

(e) the steps proposed by NHAI to respond better to the suggestions of road safety organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has appointed M/s. Span Consultants Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi in Joint Venture with Danish Road Directorate, Ministry of Transport, Denmark to define road safety policy and develop action plans under the provisions of World Bank.

In addition to above, road safety audit for certain stretches *i.e.* Western Transport Corridor through international consultants under Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan has been carried out and road safety (public education) under World Bank Loan for Chennai-Kolkatta, Delhi-Kolkatta, Delhi-Mumbai and Mumbai-Chennai Section of Golden Quadrilateral is in progress. These consultants were required to introduce international practices on road safety audit and public education on road safety in India.

(c) The total cost of consultancy services to define road safety policy and develop action plans is USS 214400.00 & 82,54,000/- respectively. Road Safety audit was carried in four packages and the total cost of consultancy was US$1.62 million. Consultancy for road safety (public education) is in progress and an amount of Rs. 1.92 crore have been paid to the consultants till date.

(d) No, Sir. The proposals received are given due consideration.

(e) NHAI has constituted a Road Safety Cell to respond better to the suggestions of Road Safety Organizations.

Satwari to R.S. Pura Road in Jammu

1510. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for upgradation and widening of remaining unfinished road from Satwari to R.S. Pura in Jammu (J&K) under Central Road Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the present details of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Widening and upgradation of double lane Satwari Airport-RS Pura road was sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 1146 lakhs under Central Road Fund Scheme on 3rd August, 2005. The work is in progress and an expenditure of Rs. 1010 lakhs has been incurred so far. No other proposal has been received from the State Government from Satwari to R.S. Pura in J&K under Central Road Fund Scheme.